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The Painted Antependia of George James Cutajar Zahra

by Shawn Tribe on May 27, 2021



Antependia are most frequently seen in textile form of course, but they also take other forms including metallic frontals as well as painted. We were recently contacted by a Maltese artist, George James Cutajar Zahra, about two antependia he was recently commissioned to paint; one for a convent in Malta and the other for a parish church in Calabria, Italy.

The first example is a violet frontal that shows a scene of the Pietà surrounded by silver flora and fauna, framed in gold.



A few closer details:



The second example shows a scene of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi adoring the Christ Child. It is set on a red background with gold flowers and vines set against a dark blue backdrop. Here is a look at the artist at work on the piece:



This particular frontal is augmented by a beautiful gilt silver and gold altar frame.



While we are featuring this artist's work, some of our readers may also be interested in some of the festal banners which he has produced. Here is a small sampling





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